

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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ALEUTIAN ISLANDS BLACK ROCKFISH GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS FOR THE 2013 SEASON ANNOUNCED

The Aleutian Islands black rockfish management area, defined as state waters of the Aleutian Islands District in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area and the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area, opens to commercial fishing for black rockfish on January 1, 2013.

The 2013 total guideline harvest level (GHL) for the black rockfish fishery is 90,000 pounds, round weight. The maximum black rockfish bycatch allowance in other groundfish fisheries is five percent, by weight, of the directed groundfish species on board the vessel. The GHL is distributed between three sections: Akutan, Unalaska and Western sections. In the Akutan and Unalaska sections the GHL is further divided among several subsections to distribute fishing effort. The Akutan Section has four subsections, and the Unalaska Section has five subsections. The sections and subsections are shown on Figure 1.

The Aleutian Islands black rockfish fishery is limited to mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear types. Fishermen using mechanical jigging machines are limited to five machines. A vessel owner or operator must register with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to fishing. Fishermen are required to complete and submit a logbook to ADF&G for all fishing activity. Logbooks will be provided at the time of registration. Additionally, if delivering to the port of Dutch Harbor, fishermen are asked to notify ADF&G prior to product delivery to facilitate dockside sampling. Logbook data and dockside samples will help inform managers of fishery removals.

State waters south of Akutan Island between 165° 41' W longitude and 165° 46' W longitude (the south end of Green Bight to Talus Point) will remain closed to the retention of black rockfish due to localized stock depletion concerns of this slow-growing, long-lived, non-migratory species. Diagonal lines on Figure 1 denote the closed area.

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The GHL for each section and subsection are as follows:

Akutan Section

Akutan Island Subsection	10,000
Akun Island Subsection	10,000
Rootok Island Subsection	5,600
<u>Tigalda Island Subsection</u>	<u>9,400</u>
TOTAL	35,000 pounds

Unalaska Section

Unalaska Bay/Wislow Subsection	3,000
Cape Kalekta/Unalga Island Subsection	3,600
West Unalaska Subsection	12,850
South Unalaska Subsection	12,300
<u>Beaver Inlet/Sedanka Island Subsection</u>	<u>3,250</u>
TOTAL	35,000 pounds

Western Section

20,000 pounds

Descriptions of sections are as follows:

Akutan Section

- Akutan Island Subsection – territorial waters adjacent to Akutan Island.
- Akun Island Subsection – territorial waters adjacent to Akun Island.
- Rootok Island Subsection – territorial waters adjacent to Rootok and Avatanak Islands.
- Tigalda Island Subsection – territorial waters adjacent to Tigalda and Ugamak Islands.

Unalaska Section

- Unalaska Bay/Wislow Subsection – between Koriga Point and Cape Kalekta.
- Cape Kalekta/Unalga Subsection – between Cape Kalekta and a line running due east from Brundage Point at 53° 55.89' N latitude.
- West Unalaska Subsection – between Konets Head and Koriga Point.
- South Unalaska Subsection – between 168° W longitude and the south end of Udagak Strait at 166° 16.17' W longitude.
- Beaver Inlet/Sedanka Island Subsection – state waters south of 53° 55.89' N latitude including waters of Beaver Inlet, Egg and Sedanka Islands to 166° 16.17' W longitude.

Western Section:

- All territorial waters of the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea west of 168° W longitude.

For further information please contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

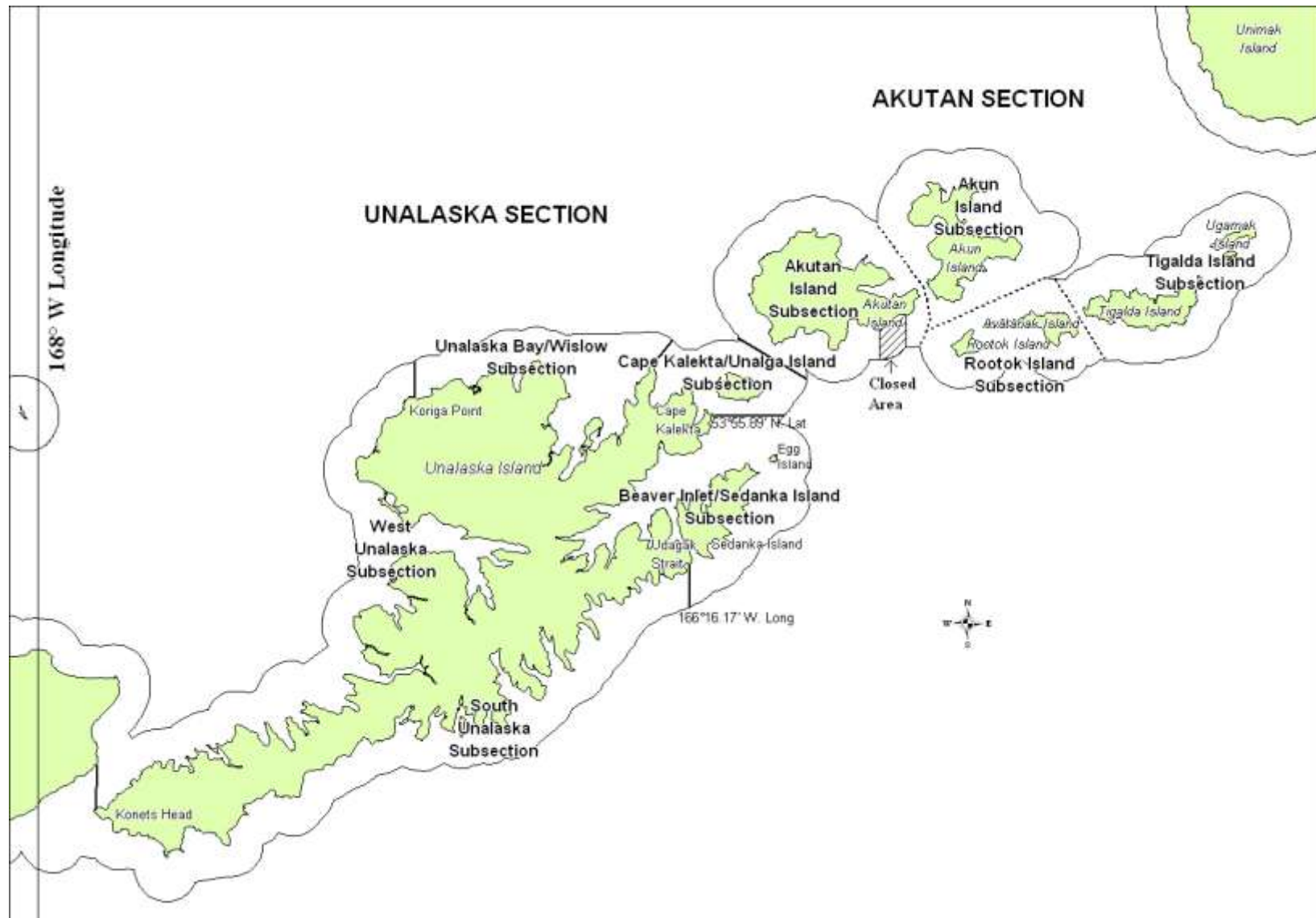


Figure 1. Unalaska and Akutan sections and subsections of the Aleutian Islands black rockfish fishery.